

assistance is provided to Universities/Organisations/Social Science Research Institutes for conducting action oriented research and evaluative studies on development of Scheduled Castes. A total amount of Rs. 64,000/- was released to two such Research Agencies during 1990-91 for conducting research studies in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The amount is reported to have been spent by them.

Opening of New Regional Passport Offices at Siliguri and Ranchi

1510. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to open Regional Passport Offices at Siliguri in North Bengal and at Ranchi in South Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be opened;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the criteria being adopted by the Government in opening a Regional Passport Office at places other than the State capitals?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINGH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to administrative and financial constraints, it is not possible to open more Passport Offices in the near future.

(d) The size of population in catchment area of a passport office, equitable distribution of passport offices all over India, propensity of a population to apply for passports, geographical location of a passport office

and availability of resources for the purpose etc. are usually the parameters based on which opening of a Passport Office is decided.

World Bank Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Development of Fisheries

1511. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank propose to provide assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the development of brackish water shrimp and reservoir projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details of assistance proposed to be given; and

(c) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated total project cost is Rs. 88.13 crore comprising Rs. 80.79 crore for the brackish-water shrimp culture component; Rs. 5.61 crore for the reservoir fish culture component and Rs. 1.73 crore for project management. About 90% of the total cost is expected to be provided by the World Bank as the total assistance for this project.

(c) This project was approved by the World Bank in the meeting of the Executive Board of Directors held at Washington on 14.1.92. The project will become credit effective from 1st May, 1992 for implementation over a 7 year period."

Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome

1512. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: